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PATENT APPLICATION

03560.002756.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

FUMITAKA TOYOMURA, ET AL. ✓

Application No.: 09/816,447 ✓

Filed: March 26, 2001 ✓

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR TESTING SOLAR PANEL,
MANUFACTURING METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING THE
SOLAR PANEL, METHOD AND
APPARATUS FOR INSPECTING
SOLAR PANEL GENERATING
SYSTEM, INSULATION
RESISTANCE MEASURING
APPARATUS, AND WITHSTAND
VOLTAGE TESTER ✓

Examiner: C. K. Oda ✓

Group Art Unit: 2858 ✓

September 3, 2002 (Tuesday
following Labor Day Holiday)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated July 31, 2002 (Paper No.

5), Applicants hereby provisionally elect to prosecute the Group I claims, namely Claims 1
to 15. The Restriction Requirement is, however, traversed.

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Diamond E. Vadnais
Name of Attorney for Applicant

[Signature] September 3, 2002
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Traversal is on the grounds specified at MPEP § 806.05(e), since the groups are actually related as process and apparatus for its practice. According to MPEP § 806.05(e), "[i]f the apparatus claims include a claim to 'means' for practicing the process, the claim is a linking claim and must be examined with the elected invention."

Accordingly, examination of Claims 16 and 17 together with the elected Group I claims is seen as proper. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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